

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097900
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:PM/ISA:PSCHLAMM
APPROVED BY:PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL
-----049237 172026Z /50
O 172001Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO COGARD ONSOD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097900

FOLLOWING REPEAT PORT OF SPAIN 01194 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO COGUARD ONSAD 142030Z APR 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1194

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, TD
SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD

REF: A) STATE 85747; B) STATE 95620; C) PORT OF SPAIN 975;
D) PORT OF SPAIN 1001

1. ON APRIL 10, I CALLED ON ACTING PERM SEC IN MIN EXTAF
(LENORE DORSET) TO PRESENT NOTE, TEXT OF WHICH WAS
CONTAINED IN REF A. STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY
DECISION BY THE GOTT, I EXPLAINED THAT THE NOTE ADDRESSED
THE THREE POINTS MADE BY FM DONALDSON (REF C) AND SHOULD BE
CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WE PRE-
SENTED IN JULY, 1977. I DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE FACTORS
LEADING TO THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF OMEGA TRINIDAD AND SAID THAT THE REQUESTED HISTORICAL
SUMMARY (REF D) WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO PREPARE BUT WOULD BE
PROVIDED TO THE GOTT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THE
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MEANWHILE, I HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR
THE GOTT TO AGREE NOW IN PRINCIPLE TO THE EXTENSION
OF OMEGA TRINIDAD ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS AND
DOCUMENTS IN ITS POSSESSION, WITH THE MODALITIES TO
BE WORKED OUT SUBSEQUENTLY. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY
IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS AND SHORTAGE
OF SPARE PARTS WHICH THE OMEGA STATION HERE WAS

EXPERIENCING. MRS. DORSET SAID SHE WOULD PASS THE FOREGOING INFORMATION ON TO DONALDSON AND WOULD UNDERTAKE TO GET A RESPONSE ASAP.

2. MRS. DORSET PHONED APRIL 14 TO SAY THAT THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES HAD DECIDED THAT NO DECISION ON OMEGA TRINIDAD WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE HISTORICAL SUMMARY HAS BEEN RECEIVED. IN REPOSE TO MY QUESTIONS, SHE SAID SHE DID NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING THE IMPORTATION OF SPARE PARTS OR OTHER NEEDED ITEMS FOR OMEGA OR IN THE GRANTING OF A REASONABLE PERIOD FOR DISMANTLING SHOULD WE BE UNABLE TO REACH A DECISION TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING FIRM ASSURANCES TO THAT EFFECT FROM DONALDSON.

3. COMMENT. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF THE FUTURE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENTS. CLEARLY WE WILL NOT GET A DECISION OUT OF THE GOTT ON OMEGA UNTIL AFTER THE HISTORICAL SUMMARY HAS BEEN PROVIDED. DEPENDING ON THE PRESS OF BUSINESS, IT COULD TAKE UP TO SEVERAL MORE WEEKS TO GET A DECISION EVEN THEN. WHILE THE GOTT HAS NOT RPT NOT CLOSED THE DOOR TO AN OMEGA EXTENSION, AS A RESULT OF PM WILLIAMS'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT THE SITUATION NOW LOOKS LESS FAVORABLE THAN IT DID SEVERAL WEEKS AGO (INDEED, DONALDSON SAID AS CONFIDENTIAL

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MUCH TO ME EARLIER THIS WEEK). IT IS DIFFICULT TO GUESS WHAT WILLIAMS IS SEEKING BUT MY HUNCH IS THAT HE LABORS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DECISION TO CONSTRUCT THE TEMPORARY STATION WAS NEVER SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO GOTT. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN IF THE EVENTUAL DECISION ON OMEGA IS NEGATIVE, WE EXPECT THAT THE GOTT WOULD BE WILLING TO ALLOW US WHATEVER TIME IS REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIABLE (APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS) FOR PHASEOUT AND SHUTDOWN.

4. DONALDSON WILL BE IN LONDON, GENEVA, AND PARIS FROM APRIL 14 TO 22. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO PREPARE THE HISTORICAL SUMMARY BY APRIL 24, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST FROM TACTICAL VIEWPOINT TO DELIVER THE SUMMARY ON HIS RETURN FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WILLIAMS. AFTER THIS IS DONE, IT COULD TAKE SEVERAL DAYS, OR SEVERAL WEEKS, FOR GOTT TO PREPARE AND DELIVER ITS FORMAL RESPONSE. THUS END OF APRIL OR EARLY MAY IS THE EARLIEST WE COULD REASONABLY EXPECT A DECISION. FOX. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, RADIO STATIONS, TRACKING STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE097900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PM/ISA:PSCHLAMM
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-0655
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780448/aaaabovc.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b34788ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 85747, 78 STATE 95620, 78 PORT OF SPAIN 975
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2941707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMEGA TRINIDAD
TAGS: MARR, TD, US
To: CG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b34788ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014